

BAND OF BROTHERS
WHEN
JUDGES RULED
AND
SIN REIGNED
LIFE LESSONS FROM
THE BOOK OF JUDGES

WEEK 2 HOMEWORK

- Read Judges 3:7-31
 - According to verses 7-11, who was the first deliverer God raised up?
 - Who was he? (Go back and read Judges 1:11-15 for help).
 - What kinds of things were the Israelites doing that God considered “evil”?
 - Read Joshua 24:19-24. What kinds of things did Joshua warn the people not to do?
 - Read Deuteronomy 12:1-9. In this passage, Moses is warning the people about how they are to act when they get into the land of Canaan. So, what can we assume they were doing that God considered evil?
- Go back and look at Judges 3:12-30. This is a fascinating story. What aspects of it jump out at you?

- The phrase that describes Ehud as a “left-handed man” actually means “bound in the right hand.” In other words, he was probably crippled or paralyzed in his right hand. Why would this be a significant part of the story?

- In what ways are you a “left-handed man” whom God chosen to use?

- Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. In what ways does this passage encourage you as you attempt to do battle with the “enemies” who surround you?

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WEEK 2: Judges 1:1-2:5

Learning Through Failure: How God tests us to perfect us

- **The Fear of Failure**
 - None of us likes failure
 - We avoid it like the plague
 - But failure has a way of getting our attention

“Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.” – Winston Churchill

- **The Testing of God**
 - The believer is to see failure as an **opportunity**, not an **obstacle**
 - The roadblocks and detours of life are **God-ordained**
 - What we tend to view as **poor divine planning** is actually **providence**

An example from Exodus

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Tell the people of Israel to turn back and encamp in front of Pi-hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, in front of Baal-zephon; you shall encamp facing it, by the sea. For Pharaoh will say of the people of Israel, ‘They are wandering in the land; the wilderness has shut them in.’ And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them, and I will get glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord.” And they did so. – Exodus 14:1-4 ESV

When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, “Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: ‘Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” – Exodus 14:10-11 ESV

And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent." – Exodus 14:13-14

A reminder from Deuteronomy

*"The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, **that you may live and multiply**, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might **humble you, testing you** to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And **he humbled you and let you hunger** and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.*

*"Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, **the LORD your God disciplines you**. So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him." – Deuteronomy 8:1-6 ESV*

- There is a **method** to God's seeming **madness**
- His discipline is **purposeful** and not just **punitive**

My child, don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child. – Hebrews 12:5-6

- **God's Testing of Israel**

***And Joshua...died** at the age of 110 years... – Judges 2:8 ESV*

***And there arose another generation** after them who did not know the Lord... – Judges 2:10 ESV*

***And the people of Israel did what was evil** in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals... – Judges 2:11 ESV*

*Now the angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' **But you have not obeyed my voice**. What is this you have done? So now I say, **I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you.**" As soon as the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the people of Israel, **the people lifted up their voices and wept**. And they called the name of that place Bochim. And they sacrificed there to the LORD. – Judges 2:1-5 ESV*

bochim – literally, “weeping”

- But why were they crying?
- Was it repentance or remorse?
- Was it sorrow for their sins or their suffering?

- Their tears were **insincere** and **insufficient**

You cover the LORD’s altar with tears, weeping and groaning because he pays no attention to your offerings and doesn’t accept them with pleasure. – Malachi 2:13 NLT

The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God. – Psalm 51:17 NLT

For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There’s no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death. – 2 Corinthians 7:10 NLT

- **The Canaanization of Israel**

¹ *After the death of Joshua, **the people of Israel inquired of the LORD**, “Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?”* ² *The LORD said, “Judah shall go up; **behold, I have given the land into his hand.**”* ³ *And Judah said to Simeon his brother, “Come up with me into the territory allotted to me, that we may fight against the Canaanites. And I likewise will go with you into the territory allotted to you.”* ⁴ *Then Judah went up and **the LORD gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand**, and they defeated 10,000 of them at Bezek. – Judges 1:1-4 ESV*

⁸ ***And the men of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it** and struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire.* ⁹ *And afterward the men of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who lived in the hill country, in the Negeb, and in the lowland.*

¹⁰ ***And Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron** (now the name of Hebron was formerly Kiriath-arba), **and they defeated Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmi.** – Judges 1:8-10 ESV*

¹⁸ ***Judah also captured Gaza with its territory, and Ashkelon with its territory, and Ekron with its territory.*** ¹⁹ ***And the LORD was with Judah**, and he took possession of the hill country, **but he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain because they had chariots of iron.** – Judges 1:18-19 ESV*

Israel fails the test

Judah...could not drive out... – 1:19

Benjamin did not drive out... – 1:21

Manasseh did not drive out... – 1:27

Ephraim did not drive out... – 1:29

Zebulun did not drive out... – 1:30

Asher did not drive out... – 1:31

Naphtali did not drive out... – 1:33
The Amorites pressed...Dan back – 1:34

Israel faces the consequences

...the Canaanites persisted in dwelling in that land... – 1:28
...so the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them... 1:29
...so the Canaanites lived among them... – 1:30
...so the Asherites lived among the Canaanites... – 1:32
...so they lived among the Canaanites... – 1:33
The Amorites persisted in dwelling in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim... – 1:35

- This was not what God had commanded
- The persistent presence of the Canaanites would be a problem

*²...and when the LORD your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then **you must devote them to complete destruction**. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. ³You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, ⁴for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. – Deuteronomy 7:2-4 ESV*

- **The Cycle Begins**

¹¹And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals.

¹²And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger. – Judges 2:11-12 ESV

*¹⁴So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, **and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them**. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. – Judges 2:14 ESV*

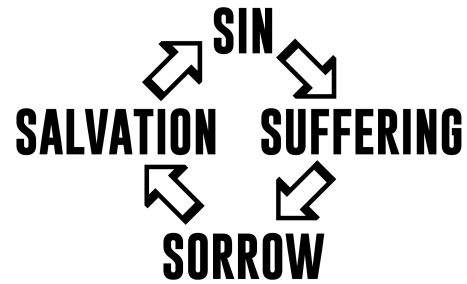
¹⁶Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. ¹⁷Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. – Judges 2:16-17 ESV

shaphat – (Hebrew)

- avenger
 - to vindicate
 - to govern
- In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. – Judges 21:25 ESV*

The judges were given because God loves His people, as an expression of His compassion, and because He longed for them to return to a close relationship of love with Him. They were not a reward given because of the peoples' work of repentance, but a gift of God's grace. – David Jackman, *The Preacher's Commentary, Judges/Ruth*

- They were agents of God's grace – saviors



¹ Now these are the nations that the LORD left, to test Israel by them, that is, all in Israel who had not experienced all the wars in Canaan. ² It was only in order that the generations of the people of Israel might know war, to teach war to those who had not known it before. ³ These are the nations: the five lords of the Philistines and all the Canaanites and the Sidonians and the Hivites who lived on Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-hermon as far as Lebo-hamath. ⁴ **They were for the testing of Israel**, to know whether Israel would obey the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. ⁵ **So the people of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.** ⁶ And their daughters they took to themselves for wives, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they served their gods. – Judges 3:1-6 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What are some ways in which we have become “Canaanized” as modern-day children of God?
- How does God test our devotion and dedication?
- Look at 2 Corinthians 7:10. What is the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow?
- According to 1 John 1:8-10, why is confession of sin is so important? What are the potential ramifications if we don't?